



Winner of 9, 2015 National Native Media Awards

Sept. 15, 2015 "Otoowoskuce" Little Chestnut Month

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passed during Council session — Pages 5-6

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#MCNVOTE2015



A Mvskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

## CRD hosts informational community development meeting

### Citizens look to create community in Beggs

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department held an informational session Aug. 20 at the Handy Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Beggs.

The meeting served to educate interested Muscogee (Creek) citizens on forming a MCN chartered community in the area. “If in fact they want to start

a community, we want to help guide them through this process and train them for the different areas like economic development, Roberts Rules of Order, how to conduct meetings and financials, how to keep your books and all those kinds of things. We want to be available to do that and offer that to them,” CRD Director Floyd Jones said.

MCN Assistant Attorney

Beggs - 3



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department, Training Coordinator Cassandra Thompson presents the steps for forming a MCN chartered community to citizens Aug. 20 during an informational session at the Handy Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Beggs, Okla.

## Officials discuss FY 2016 budget at meeting

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council extraordinary session, called for by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, was held Aug. 21 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Tiger requested the session to discuss the Fiscal Year 2016 budget with Council representatives.

Council Speaker Thomas Yahola said at the meeting that preparation of the budget is an executive function and referred to MCN Constitution Article V, Section 3.

“It is the constitutional responsibility of the executive office to draft and prepare the budget in the best interest of the Nation,” Yahola said. “The National Council’s role is approving the budget and subsequently appropriating operating funds to the Nation.”

Tiger requested that the legislative and executive branches work together for a solid and collaborative government.

“We are here to offer to you an opportunity to work together addressing this comprehensive budget,” Tiger said.

Tiger said that the number of Muscogee (Creek) citizens has increased by 13 percent, the permanent fund has grown by 38 percent, workforce by 38 percent and that the Nation has experienced a greater demand for services in a time of rising costs and inflation.

“This means our budgets have necessarily increased over the past years as citizenship, programs, services and needs have increased,” Tiger said.

Cabinet members gave reports from their departments on how potential budget cuts might affect their respective departments.

All sixteen Council representatives were present for the meeting.

The budget hearings for August were canceled. New dates for budget hearings have not been announced.

FY 2016 begins Oct. 1, 2015.

A video of the session can be viewed at: <http://mcnnc.com> by clicking on the Aug. 20 meeting link under the ‘Achieved Council Meetings’ tab from the home page.

For a direct link visit: <http://mcnnc.com/index.php/archived-meetings>.



Chelsie Rich/MNN

A yoga class was held for participants of the ninth annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit Aug. 27 at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee, Okla.

## Health department advocates proactive approach

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and the Dewar Creek Indian Community held the ninth annual MCN

## 9th annual diabetes awareness summit held

Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit Aug. 27 at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee.

“This is an very important event you know as diabetes is the number one concern across Indian Country and the key to diabetes control is prevention,”

said MCNDH Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith.

According to the American Diabetes Association, at nearly 16 percent, American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest age-adjusted prevalence of diabetes among all U.S. racial

and ethnic groups.

“We’re always trying to get individuals. They don’t have to have diabetes but individuals who are interested in learning

Summit - 2

## Citizen couple purchases local business



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Travis and ShaRee Scott purchased the Parks Brothers Ace Hardware store in Okemah, Okla.

## MCN Commerce Department assists with acquisition

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) couple Travis and ShaRee Scott purchased

the Parks Brothers Ace Hardware store in Okemah.

Travis worked at the store for 20 years, starting at an entry level position and advancing to manager.

Couple - 2



MNN File Photo

## Success center aimed at supporting students

### Guidance offered through facility

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to the College of the Muscogee Nation website, the CMN Student Success Center

strives to help students adapt to college life by supporting them through the entire enrollment process when they first enter the school.

SSC offers academic advise-

Success - 7



## SUMMIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

how to prevent diabetes,” said Eufaula Clinic Diabetes Program, Exercise Program Manager Kimberlee Little.

Harold Hamm Diabetes Center Educators gave the conference presentations.

The conference covered the differences between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, controlling, prevention and treatment of diabetes, nutrition and exercise tips.

“Probably the majority of our individuals come through here have diabetes or they at least have a family who has diabetes so it affects them directly,” Little said.

Ninety-five percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives with diabetes have Type 2 as opposed to Type 1.

The conference offered classes on Zumba and gentle yoga to get people active and showed techniques on how to ease certain aches and pains.

Free foot examinations were offered to test the circulation

and sense of feeling in the lower extremities, which is one damaging effect of the disease.

“We want people to understand that diabetes, although it’s a disease, it can be prevented,” Little said. “If you get diabetes, it can be sustained; you can actually live a healthy life with diabetes.”

It is estimated that 30 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have pre-diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association.

The summit was free and geared toward Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

However, spouses or support persons for tribal citizens as well as other American Indians living in the MCN communities were also welcome.

“We try to put it in different areas so that everyone will get an opportunity to come and see what we have,” Smith said.

For more information about diabetes visit an MCN healthcare facility.

It is estimated that 30 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have pre-diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association. Ninety-five percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives with diabetes have Type 2 as opposed to Type 1.

## COUPLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“I was fresh out of not really knowing much about the hardware business. I was tutored by some other individuals that worked here,” Travis said.

When the Parks family wanted to retire and sell the business, they gave the Scotts the option to purchase it.

“When the opportunity came up, I told ShaRee, ‘I think it is a good investment for us,’” Travis said.

Travis approached the Banc-First Okemah branch for a business loan and branch president Lloyd Pickering felt it was providence for the bank to do business with them.

“That business has been a customer of Okemah National Bank formed in 1902 when the town was formed,” Pickering said.

Pickering also expressed joy about the transaction.

“I have had the opportunity to know Travis as he has been in that store for 20 years. I have got a ranch and done a lot of business with the store,” Pickering said. “He has done a great job and we just, I guess

I am along for the ride to celebrate a little bit because we just couldn’t be happier with what’s been done.”

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Commerce Department assisted the Scotts in the acquisition.

“We are working with our Creek citizens and wherever we can help, we would like to,” Commerce Department Business Development Specialist John Blue said.

The Scotts are looking forward to working with more vendors to increase the products they can offer customers.

“Being a smaller community, not having the advantage of the Oklahoma City, Tulsa areas, we have to have a more broad selection,” Travis said. “So, our customers don’t have to drive out of town to have that merchandise.”

All of the six employees are Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the Scotts plan to hire two to four more people.

For more information, contact ShaRee Scott at: 918-623-0772.

## Agriculture workshops hosted in MCN jurisdiction

### Food Sovereignty offers community training

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative and the University of Arkansas School of Law, Food and Agriculture Initiative hosted an agriculture and business workshop Aug. 13 at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

Some of the topics covered were food safety regulations, food production legal issues and risk management tools. The workshop targeted food businesses, farmers and ranchers.

Farm Credit Council Small Beginning Farmer Programs and Outreach, Vice President Gary Matteson was on-hand to teach financial skills and illustrate monthly cash flow budgeting.

“It is thinking through, ‘What do I have? Where do I want to go? What do I need for resources and what do I expect for outcomes from a business?’ ” Matteson said.

Indigenous Food and Agri-

culture Director and Chickasaw Nation citizen, Janie Hipp said people tend to underestimate the legal aspects involved with businesses especially food businesses.

“Food has always been heavily legally bound up, heavily regulated. It’s just always good to get new developments out there to people and the food safety pieces are becoming more and more complicated,” Hipp said.

The workshop will be available to view online in the near future.

MFSI Executive Director Lizanna Holata said they have been working on several new and upcoming projects.

Gathering the Gatherers teaches children and youth about Native foods.

“It is about the children going out and learning about the Native foods we have in our areas that we can cook and eat and make things with and we took the children out to pick blackberries,” Holata said. “Of course next spring, we are going to take them out to pick wild onions.”

The next food they plan to gather is possum grapes. MFSI

is seeking citizens who have the grapes growing on their properties and would be willing to share. In the coming months, they also plan to gather hickory nuts and talk about which game animals will be in season.

“There are a lot of things out there that our children have never seen before,” Holata said. “If it ever came down to it and they had nothing, you can always go out and find food.”

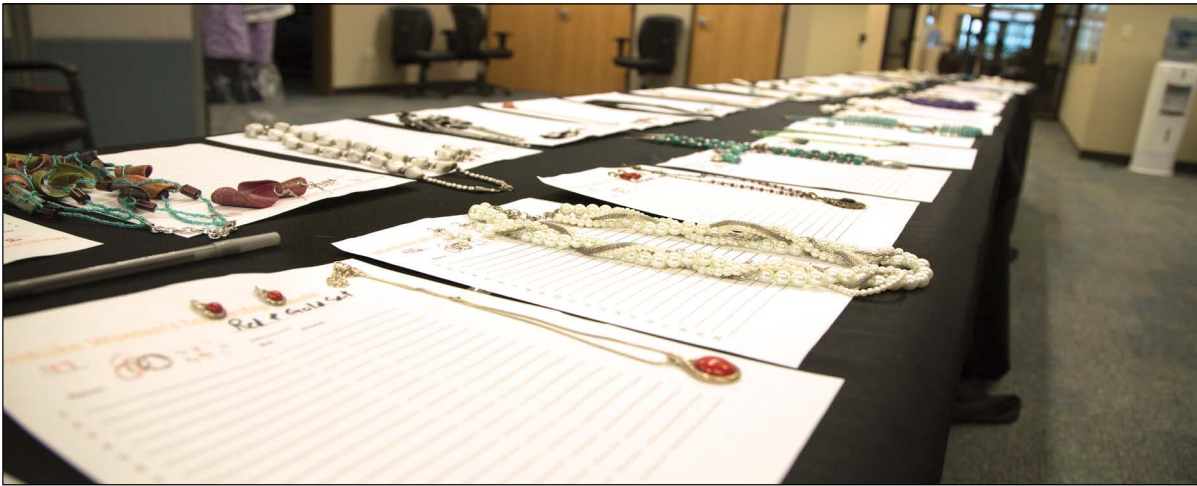
Another planned project will be held in conjunction with childcare centers to teach children how to garden.

MFSI has built raised garden beds at the different childcare locations. A master gardener along with garden techs are scheduled to work with the children.

“They are going to let them put the seeds in and cover it up with the dirt because the babies love to play in the dirt,” Holata said. “Then, we have our little worm farm, a little worm community. We show them how to take care of the worms.”

For more information call: 918-756-5915.

## Mvskoke Women’s Leadership holds fundraiser



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Jewelry was displayed at the Mvskoke Women’s Leadership auction held Aug. 27-28 in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

### Event aimed at furthering mission

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Women’s Leadership group held a jewelry auction Aug. 27-28 in the Executive Building on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The auction raised \$680, which will be used for the MWL annual awards banquet in March.

“It was just a way to recognize other women who are doing great things,” MWL chairperson Cherrah Giles said.

Giles said the organization did not have a set amount they were trying to raise, but the funds gave MWL a bigger head

start than in previous years. She also said MWL has had a steady amount of active participants.

“Where we are now in our development, is we do have set officers: myself as chair, Dr. Dwanna Robertson as vice-chair, Terra Beaver as treasurer and Lauren Randall as our secretary,” Giles said.

MWL is currently pursuing a nonprofit classification through the State of Oklahoma, as the group was not started by MCN.

The organization’s main initiative is a focus on mentorship with regular meetings held between the mentors and those being fostered.

“It is a consistent purpose that you are putting into that relationship,” Giles said.

Meeting attendance is on a

come-and-go basis with locations rotating. Giles said the group was, “always meant to be free flowing.”

Giles said if MWL expands into a full program, she would like to examine the needs of the communities more.

“As Mvskoke people, we did take care of one another,” Giles said. “As women, I think we continue to make our place and take our place here in this Nation.”

The next MWL meeting will be held Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Southern Regional Office in Wetumka.

For more information about MWL, call: 918-520-9161, email: mvskeoke.wl@gmail.com or follow the group on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MvskeokeWomensLeadership.

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## Coweta Tire gets boost from Mvskoke Loan Fund



Jessica McBride/MNN  
Lee Rankins works in the Coweta Tire shop, located in Coweta, Okla. Coweta Tire is owned by Cherokee Nation citizen Bryan Echols.

### Tire shop offers financing

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

COWETA, Okla. — Cherokee Nation citizen Bryan Echols set out on a journey in 2013 and did not look back.

After years being self-employed in the construction world, Echols helped out a friend in a tire shop. It was not long before he opened his own in Coweta.

Coweta Tire was in business for 14 months when Echols decided he needed a helping hand.

“I was kind of at a plateau and I just could not seem to get far enough ahead to buy some new equipment,” he said.

Echols was referred to the Mvskoke Loan Fund by a friend and made a call to them in February.

He received a loan for new equipment that boosted his business to a higher level.

“We can change twice as many tires as we used to change and have been,” Echols said.

Coweta Tire sells new and used tires for all types of vehicles including cars, semitrailers and farm and implement vehicles. The shop also performs light mechanic work for brakes, belts and hoses.

Echols has two employees and is one of only a few tire shops that offer financing arrangements.

Qualifying customers can make a \$59 down payment towards their purchase and then pay the amount owed within 90

days or make payments for the term of the loan.

Echols is excited to offer financing for customers who are trying to make ends meet.

He also offers a 10 percent discount to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Echols’ goal for Coweta Tire is honest service.

“We’re not going to sell you something you don’t need,” he said. “If you need a tire, we’ll tell you, you need a tire. If you don’t need a tire and we can fix it, we’re going to fix it.”

Echols said he might not have every tire, but he will order it if necessary and loan the customer a tire until the new one arrives.

Echols said he recommends tires based upon the quality of the product and the warranty.

He wants customers to be satisfied with the service they receive and not be in fear of being ripped off.

Coweta Tire performed in the top 10 for sales for the Hercules Tire and Rubber Company the first year it was open.

“My goal is to be in the top five this year,” Echols said.

The Mvskoke Loan Fund is certified through the U.S. Department of the Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund and can assist small businesses in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 11-county jurisdiction with loans and funding.

To contact Coweta Tire, call: 918-486-TIRE (8473), or like them on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/pages/Coweta-tires/706880846013474?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Coweta-tires/706880846013474?fref=ts).

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General JoEtta Toppah spoke about MCN Code Annotated Title 11, which affects the chartered communities and the Community Development Block Grant.

Jones emphasized that forming a community would not be an overnight process.

“It’s really not a complicated process. It’s a step-by-step process,” Jones said.

To form a chartered MCN community, individuals would need to create a constitution, obtain approval from the MCN Attorney General’s Office and the Office of the Principal Chief.

The community would also need to consider whether or not they would like to pursue economic development.

CRD will serve as the resource for forming the community, and be able to assist in the process.

Jones said that the time frame to form the community would be up to the community members.

The BCIC boundary area could include a regional gap in the Beggs

area of Okmulgee County and potentially border boundaries of the Bristow, Okmulgee, Wilson and Okfuskee communities.

“There may be overlap of boundaries that will possibly have to be negotiated with other communities that now have those boundaries because Beggs Indian Community was not there in the past,” Jones said.

BCIC could also negotiate boundaries with the surrounding communities.

According to [www.censusviewer.com](http://www.censusviewer.com), a population of 1,321 was reported for Beggs during the 2010 census. Those that listed their race as Native American made up 12.49 percent of the population.

Morris Creek Indian Community was the last community to receive an MCN charter in 2010.

There are currently 24 recognized MCN communities.

For more information on CRD or forming an MCN chartered community, call: 918-732-7963.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation

WETUMKA HEAD START

is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

Requirements for the program will include:

▶ Child turning 3 or 4 year olds before September 1st

▶ Income Verification (last year’s income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI letter, or statement from employer)

▶ Citizenship or CDIB card (if applicable)

▶ Birth Certificate

▶ Immunization Record

▶ Child’s medical card

If you need additional information, call Janice Birdcreek at (405) 452-1180 or stop by the Wetumka Head Start at 333 South Washita, Wetumka Oklahoma.

We also have other Head Start Centers at Okmulgee (918) 758-1430, Checotah (918) 473-0605, Tulsa (918) 296-0357, Okemah (918) 623-2000, and Eufaula (918) 618-6220.



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## Community grant amendment passed during Council session

### \$800k approved for Mound building renovations

Sterling Cospel/IMNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Aug. 29 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 15-135 Authorizing the secretary of health to execute a license renewal application between MCN and Oklahoma State Department of Health for the MCN Department of Health hospital facilities. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This application is aimed at keeping MCNDH licensed to practice medicine in Oklahoma.

- TR 15-136 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an affiliation agreement between MCN and Seminole State College. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH wishes to provide learning opportunities for a potential future laboratory technology workforce.

- TR 15-137 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Zeiss Meditec Inc. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows MCNDH to do business with the medical technology company that, according to the Zeiss website, ‘... Enables healthcare professionals worldwide to improve the lives of their patients in ophthalmology (dealing with the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the eye), micro-surgery (surgery requiring an operating microscope) and other medical growth sectors.

- TR 15-138 Authorizing the secretary of health to execute an ambulance provider application and associated documents between MCN and OSDH for MCNDH emergency medical services. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The state has set licensure standards to certify that medical institutions under the OSDH jurisdiction, meet certain requirements in order to provide ambulance services for their patients.

- TR 15-139 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and Okfuskee and Okmulgee counties. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides funding for the construction and improvement of roadways serving Indian communities.

Okmulgee and Okfuskee counties wish to enter into a memorandum of understanding with MCN to repair 8.44 miles of pavement between state highway 84 and Burlington Northern Railroad.

- TR 15-140 Establishing tribal membership in the National Congress of American Indians. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

According to their website, ‘Founded in 1944, NCAI is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organiza-

tion serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities.’

- TR 15-141 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a license application for a nursing or specialized facility between MCN and OSDH for the MCNDH skilled nursing facility. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH operates such a facility and needs periodic licensure through the state to continue doing so.

- TR 15-142 Authorizing the principal chief to execute agreements with the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority and the Oklahoma City Area Office of the Indian Health Care Service for MCNDH to receive Medicaid reimbursements. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

According to the OHA website, SoonerCare is a state and federal funded program that helps pay some or all medical bills for people who cannot afford them.

Some MCNDH patients use this program and the department would like reimbursement through it for providing services to these individuals.

- TR 15-143 Authorizing MCNDH to submit a renewal application to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency required by the Controlled Substances Act. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

To provide medical treatment to patients, MCNDH needs to procure, store and prescribe narcotic and non-narcotic medication and by law, is required to register annually with the DEA to do so.

- TR 15-144 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Interior, Indian Affairs, Office of Information Management Technology, Division Information Operations, for DOI-GEN access for the MCN Realty Trust Services Department. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN Realty provides real property information for MCN and its citizens and wishes to utilize DOI-GEN, a secure federal information technology system to help do so.

- TR 15-145 Authorizing a quiet title action to resolve title issues on real property owned by MCN located in McIntosh County. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The Nation purchased an approximate two-acre property in Checotah and was informed by a title insurance company that MCN does not have a clear title due to a missing release of mortgage on the property.

MCN Realty was unable to locate the individual needed to execute the aforementioned release and needs a quiet title action filed in McIntosh County District Court to resolve the issue and obtain a clear title.

- TR 15-146 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Wagoner County for improvements to Oneta Road. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN and Wagoner County are seeking to do a partial asphalt overlay and widen pavement on a roadway located on County Road N410, beginning at the intersection of East 121st South just west of Coweta and extending north to the intersection of East 101st South.

The county will conduct pre-construction planning and the Nation will do the pre-activ-

ities; award the contract for work; monitor, inspect and test the work performed and cover all reasonable and agreed upon expenses out of the \$2.45 million cost for the project.

This funding will be provided through the Federal Highway Administration and the county will be responsible for all maintenance after completion.

- TR 15-147 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for the improvement of a roadway and associated right-of-way by MCN TTP. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

TTP has funds available for a proposed one-mile roadway project on Highway 16 in Beggs beginning one-half mile west of the intersection of County Road NS 389 and proceeding one-half mile east.

OKDOT has agreed to maintain the project afterwards.

- TR 15-148 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Hughes County for improvements to Calvin Road. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The county wishes to reconstruct 400 feet of damaged roadway on County Road EW 141, beginning east of the County Road D3799 intersection and extending eastward.

MCN will conduct the pre-construction planning and ac-



Sterling Cospel/MNN  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department, Director Floyd Jones addresses the MCN National Council during the Aug. 29 Council regular session.

tivities; award the contract for work; monitor, inspect and test the work performed and cover all reasonable and agreed upon expenses out of the \$225,114.06 cost for the project.

This funding will be provided through the FHA and the county will be responsible for all maintenance after completion.

- TR 15-149 Amending TR 15-098 (Approving a grant of easement for water line right-of-way to Wagoner County Rural Water District #5 at the Koweta Food Distribution Center). Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The amendment adds that the easement approval on behalf of the Council will be without compensation and by waiving the appraisal and consideration for damages.

- TR 15-151 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a BIA business operation lease on restricted property regarding the Muscogee Indian Community Smoke Shop. Reps. Lucian Tiger, Pete Beaver and Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The community wishes to reopen their smoke shop on tribal property and have Ronnie Boswell operate and manage it, agreeing to pay MIC \$1 per carton purchased not to be less than \$2,000 a month.

MCN waives a surety bond because Boswell is not leasing the property but occupying it to

operate and manage the business.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration website, a surety bond ensures contract completion in the event of contractor default. The contractor obtains the bond from a surety company and if they default the company is obligated to find another contractor to complete the contract or compensate the project owner for the financial loss incurred.

- TR 15-152 Approving the absentee counters for the 2015 MCN National Council primary and general elections. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This legislation would approve the following counters who were submitted by the MCN Election Board for approval: Annette Lowe, Tukvpvtce; Georgia Frye, Muskogee; Sonya July, McIntosh; Janice Bailey, Okmulgee; Mona McManus, Wagoner; JoAnn Lowe, Tulsa; Lucy Tiger, Creek and Pat Widdoes, Wagoner. LaShona Baccus and Doris Roanhorse would be Okmulgee alternates.

- TR 15-153 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a master retail services agreement with Cox-Com LLC and Cox Oklahoma Telecom LLC for MCN gaming operations. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN law requires GOAB to get approval when entering into contract exceeding one

- NCA 15-175 Authorizing the expenditure of \$318,463.40 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Officer of Indian Education through the State Tribal Education Partnership Grant to promote increased collaboration between tribal educational agencies, state educational agencies and local educational agencies that serve students from affected tribes. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The MCN Education and Training Department has applied for the grant to hire staff and pay for teacher professional development to increase success for Muscogee (Creek) students and develop collaborative and cooperative relationships with local schools within the MCN jurisdiction.

- NCA 15-176 Authorizing a \$2,308.14 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Rep. David Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jude Prieto withdrew from the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology due to medical hardship and was unable to get his tuition fees waived. He wishes to return to finish his degree but cannot until the mentioned amount is paid.

- NCA 15-178 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Six-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Meske Proctor requests financial assistance to attend the Sheffield Academy Soccer Program.

- NCA 15-179 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Eleven-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Denim Goff requests financial assistance to compete in barrel racing at the Arrington-McSpadden All-Indian Rodeo Association Region 8 Finals.

- NCA 15-180 Authorizing a \$100,000 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Legal Services Citizen Department. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The department needs additional funds to properly meet an increase in demand from citizens for their services.

- NCA 15-181 Amending NCA 15-143 (Authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the Tribal Construction Services Department). Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment changes the original bill to allow a carry over of unexpended funds until they are spent instead of being returned to the Tribal Treasury.

- NCA 15-182 Authorizing a \$3,000 special appropriation to the Peachground Ceremonial Ground. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The ground is hosting their Little and Big Brother (east vs. west) stickball game Sept. 12-13, in which four other grounds will participate.

They request assistance for covering the cost of ten camps to purchase food, beverages and paper goods for visitors



LEGISLATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and players.

- NCA 15-183 Authorizing a \$5,000 appropriation to the Eufaula Indian Club. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The club is asking for assistance to cover expenses associated with their ‘Honoring Our Veterans’ Labor Day powwow.
- NCA 15-184 Authorizing a \$25,000 appropriation for the tribal membership fees of NCAI. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- This is the amount set, based on annual income, by NCAI by-laws for membership in the organization. View the tiered table for revenue-based dues here: [www.ncai.org/membership/tribal-membership](http://www.ncai.org/membership/tribal-membership).
- NCA 15-185 Repealing Title 11, Chapter 3, titled, ‘Grant Funds for Economic Development and Social Service Program’ and replacing it with a new Title 11, Chapter 3, titled, ‘Annual Funds for Operational Costs, Economic Development and Social Service Programs of Chartered Communities.’ Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Hufft, Nichols and Hill voting against it.
- The Community Development Block Grant annually provides financing to the communities for their operations. The grant was originally divided up among them based on their economic status.
- Since a shortfall of funding was reported regarding the current system, the amendment would create a Community Operation and Development Fund in its place, providing a set amount of \$1.5 million to be divided up equally and provided in three increments not to exceed \$20,000 over the year in a total amount not to exceed \$60,000.
- For the first year of implementation for this act, the funds will be distributed through two increments in January and May, followed by financial reporting in April and September, with the second portion provided up to \$25,000 to cover the month of September.
- An application for the Fiscal Year 2017 funds should accompany the September report.
- In FY 2017, and every following year, the COD is scheduled for distribution in October, February and June with reports due in January, April, July and September.
- The application and necessary documents requesting the funds are due to the MCN Community Research and Development Department by 5 p.m., Dec. 1, 2015 for the first year of implementation and Sept. 1 for FY 2017 and every one thereafter.
- To receive new funds, expenditure reports are also due at set increments along with the return of previously received, unused funds. Attendance of at least two CRD quarterly trainings by a member or members of the community board/officers is also required, with an emphasis on the chairperson or treasurer.
- It adds to the section of the tribal code that states the

communities may pursue grant funds from available sources, enter into business ventures and/or initiate and/or expand their social services programs, further outlining that this, along with their use of the COD Fund, must be done according to their policies and procedures.

- The COD may not be used for: board or member stipends; personal mileage, rent, mortgage or loans; vehicle purchases; per capita payments; board meals or mobile phones. The money must be kept in a separate community account and not be co-mingled with any other community funds.
- It abolishes the annual Christmas funds and van appropriations.
- Expenditures must be reported monthly to the members, changing the previous procedure where expenditures must be approved by community vote.
- The active 25-chartered communities would be eligible to apply for the COD.
- If funds are not dispersed due to noncompliance with the aforementioned requirements, they will be returned to the treasury and no retroactive release will be allowed.
- NCA 15-186 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Muscogee (Creek) citizen Micah Jared requests financial assistance to compete in the Heartland Classic soccer tournament with his team, the Bixby Highlanders 04 Boys Black Team.
- NCA 15-187 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Office of Child Care FY 2013 federal funds. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The department wishes to reallocate certain excess federal funds for the personnel and fringe.
- NCA 15-188 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Telephony Department FY 2015 budget. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The department wishes to reallocate certain excess funds to pay the MCN phone bill.
- NCA 15-189 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 16, Chapter 10, Subsection 10-205 in order to authorize the MCN Athletic Commission to regulate combative sports contests on behalf of other federally recognized Indian tribes. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The commission may regulate contests within said tribes’ boundaries if MCN law governs the event, a written contract is entered into between the commission and said tribe(s) and these contracts are reviewed by the MCN Attorney General’s Office.
- NCA 15-190 Appropriating \$800,000 to the Mound Building oversight committee for the first phase of the Mound Building renovation. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The building needs repairs to address leaks and mold issues. MCN personnel will conduct property improvements and three proposals will be obtained before selecting a contractor. No construction will begin and financial obligation taken without approval from the Tribal Construction manager.

- NCA 15-191 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Department of Housing Crime Prevention FY 2015 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The department would like to reallocate funds in supplies and equipment maintenance, to equipment in order to upgrade the security equipment for rental property in Okmulgee and Checotah.
- NCA 15-192 Authorizing a \$15,000 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Department of Environmental Services. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The funds will be used to provide solid waste services such as dumpsters or port-a-johns to more ceremonial grounds, Indian churches and MCN communities.
- NCA 15-193 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the Weleetka Little League Football Organization. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- They wish to use the money to purchase football equipment.
- NCA 15-194 Authorizing the expenditure of \$395,278 awarded from the District Attorney’s Council through the Victims of Crime Act for the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program and MCNDH to develop the sexual assault nurse examiner service. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The funds will be used to develop a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners service at the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee and Creek Nation Hospital in Okemah.
- NCA 15-195 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for MCN CRD FY 2015 budget. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The CRD wishes to reallocate certain excess funds to make necessary purchases for the department.
- NCA 15-196 Amending NCA 15-110 (Authorizing a supplemental appropriation to MCN CRD to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the MCN chartered community buildings). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Due to the sometimes lengthy process of bidding on certain projects, some of the money will not be expended before the end of FY 2015 and CRD asks that the appropriated funds be carried over until fully expended in order to provide more maintenance and repairs to the buildings.
- NCA 15-198 Amending MCNCA Title 3, Chapter 3 titled, ‘Medical Travel Assistance.’ Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Citizens are eligible when they travel more than 25 miles to receive medical treatment. The assistance provides reimbursement or pre-payment for toll and parking fees, gas, food and or/lodging. Assistance may be paid up to \$2,000 in a lifetime. Cancer patients may be eligible for assistance up to \$10,000 (updated from \$5,000) a lifetime on a case-by-case basis.
- NCA 15-199 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN FVPP FY 2015 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- FVPP wishes to reallocate certain excess federal funds for other expenses.
- NCA 15-200 Amending

- 15-109 (Authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the MCN Department of Housing and addition to the force account to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the MCN chartered community buildings.) Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Due to the sometimes lengthy process of bidding on certain projects, some of the money will not be expended before the end of FY 2015 and Housing asks that the appropriated funds be carried over until fully expended in order to provide more maintenance and repairs to the buildings.
- NCA 15-202 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- Seventeen-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tayah Harjochee requests assistance in covering expenses related to her participation in the 2015 Miss Teen Oklahoma City competition.
- NCA 15-204 Amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 10, titled, ‘Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizen Legal Services Department’ by creating a new subsection titled, ‘services provided.’ Barnett and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- The amendment outlines the following available services:
  - Basic elder law needs, such as probate and guardianship; basic estate planning, such as simple wills, deeds, durable powers of attorney and advanced healthcare directives; guardianships of minor children; community education programs and presentations; regularly scheduled chartered community meetings; outreach site visits to senior center activities; commodity distribution sites; elderly nutrition sites; tribal towns and other tribal social service agencies and legal services necessary to protect the restricted property of individual citizens and the property of MCN churches and ceremonial grounds from trespass and other issues adversely affecting title to the property.
  - Ade was excused.
  - The upcoming regular session is scheduled Sept. 26.
  - Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.
  - The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: [www.mcnn.com](http://www.mcnn.com), and the 2010 MCNCA is used as reference material, which is available on the MCN District Court website at: [www.muscogeeecreektribalcourt.org](http://www.muscogeeecreektribalcourt.org), both of which may have been amended.
  - The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.
  - It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.
  - For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Program fair held at Southern Regional Office

MCN entities present services to area citizens

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments and programs came together Sept. 2 to host a program fair at the Southern Regional Office in Wetumka.

Every year, this fair takes place to allow MCN departments and programs to share information about the services they offer and provide to citizens that live in or close to the Wetumka area.

“It’s an opportunity for citizens to come out and see what’s available here at the Southern Regional Office... also, for the programs that don’t routinely come here, they also get to come down and see what our office base looks like and if they need to consider moving and having a full satellite office here in Wetumka,” said MCN Secretary of Community and Human Services Cherrah Giles.

MCN departments and programs handed out information, hosted games, provided lunch and set up for voter registration.

“We are trying to take care of our people more on a local level. I think the Southern Regional Office certainly does that,” said MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

There are currently 14 services offered through the SRO.

“There are a number of thing that we’re doing here at the southern part of our jurisdiction,” Tiger said. “People can come here instead of coming all the way to Okmulgee.”

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Wetumka resident Yvette Powell shared her thoughts about the program fair and the advantages created by the office.

“It’s letting people know that we have services available for the tribal members that may not know in this area,” Powell said. “They won’t have to go all the way to Okmulgee if they don’t have the transportation and it provides them with the necessities here.”

MCN entities who provide service through the SRO include: Citizenship, Lighthorse, Tax Commission, Housing, Family Violence Prevention, Employment and Training, National Council, Women Infants and Children, Food Distribution, Social Services, Child Care, Head Start, Transit and the Health Center.

“We had some new programs move in so we’re excited to introduce it. Our transit program is now here. We have full social services available down here now,” Giles said.

For more information about the days and times these services are available call the SRO at: 405-452-1100.

**There are currently 14 services offered through the SRO:**

**Citizenship, Lighthorse, Tax Commission, Housing, Family Violence Prevention, Employment and Training, National Council, Women Infants and Children, Food Distribution, Social Services, Child Care, Head Start, Transit and the Health Center.**



# Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

## VICKIE CHECOTAH



TULSA, Okla. — Vickie Lynn Checotah, a resident of Tulsa, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015 at the age of 61. She was born July 11, 1954 to Roman Checotah and Vernia (Grayson) Checotah.

She was a member of the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church, the Women of the Moose Lodge, ACS, TBA, Inhouse Moose mixed doubles and competitive league international. Vickie attended Okmulgee schools until her junior and senior years and then went to Eufaula Boarding School. She graduated from Eufaula High School in 1972.

She attended Okmulgee Tech from 1984-1986 and graduated on the director's honor roll with a degree in printing. She also attended Platt College in Tulsa for law enforcement where she graduated with a 3.2 GPA. Vickie loved sports such as college and pro football as well as women's college and pro basketball. Vickie loved volleyball and playing pool.

She was preceded in death by her: parents, Roman and Vernia Checotah; son, Jeremy Alford; sister, Georgia Hughes; brothers, Charles Chance and Everett Checotah and grandmother, Lizzie Lowe Grayson.

Survivors include her: granddaughter, Jeremie Grace Ann Alford of Broken Bow; brothers, Johnny Checotah and wife, Jerry of Oklahoma City and Roman Checotah and wife, Janelle of Okmulgee; sisters, Linda Walters and husband, Allen of Liberty Morris; Yvonna McComb and husband, Steve of Mertzon, Texas and Nancy Elmore and husband, Robert of El Cajon, Calif.; sister-in-law, Etta Checotah; aunt, Mary Ann Kane; her closet friends, Mary Kame, Sybil Phillips, Mona McIntosh, Debbie Wood, Marianne Willis, Kitty Lull and Phyllis Elkins; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Services were held Aug. 17 at the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church. Burial followed the service at the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Cemetery.

Viewing was held Aug. 16 at the Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service, 220 S. Alabama Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Pallbearers were: Daniel Checotah, Sky Checotah, Terry Flager, Corey Russell, Windell Chance, Kevin Chance and Colby Checotah.

Arrangements are entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service.

Family and Friends may view the obituary and send condolences online at: [www.schaudt-funeralservice.com](http://www.schaudt-funeralservice.com)



## MATTIE LOWE



HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Mattie Lowe, 82, passed away in Holdenville Aug. 7, 2015 with her family by her side. She was born Feb. 4, 1933 in Wetumka to Daniel Tiger and Ellouise Marshall (Herrod) Tiger.

She was raised in Wetumka where she also attended school. Mattie Tiger married Alex Lowe June 16, 1951 and together they began raising their children. Mattie was a devoted servant of the Lord and wife. She enjoyed assisting her husband in the ministry, reading her Bible and going to church.

Mattie loved reading, singing, crocheting and knitting. Mattie was a loving mother who enjoyed caring for her family.

Cooking was her specialty and her family loved to gather at her home for the wonderful homemade meals she prepared for them.

She was preceded in death by her: parents; daughter, Elizabeth Lowe and brothers, Eugene Tiger, Daniel Tiger and Johnson Tiger Jr.

Survivors are her: children, Barbara Kaser and husband, Mark of Houston, Texas, Anita Lowe of Catoosa, Donna Lowe of Catoosa; brothers, Billy Fields of Wetumka, Bobby Tiger of Holdenville, Leon Tiger of Oklahoma City; sisters, Phyllis Lowe of Holdenville, Doris Anderson of Holdenville, and Pat Herrod of Holdenville and 16 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A wake service was held Aug. 10, 2015 at the Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home in Holdenville.

Funeral services were set for Aug. 11, 2015 at Wetumka Indian Baptist Church with Revs. Mitchell Taylor and Billy Fields officiating.

Pallbearers were: William Griffin, Zack Tiger, Ezekiel Griffin, Johnson Tiger, David Griffin and Edwin Marshall.

Interment was at the church cemetery under the direction of Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home of Holdenville.

## GOSPEL SINGING SET FOR SEPT. 19

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Mvskoke gospel singing is set for 6 p.m., Sept. 19 at Concharity United Methodist Church, 19040 Garfield Road in Okmulgee. Dinner will begin at 4 p.m. and for more information call: 918-366-8450.

## REVIVAL SET FOR SEPT. 27-29

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — Springtown United Methodist Church, 28107 E. 41st, has set a revival for Sept. 27-29 starting at 7 p.m. nightly. Rev. Jimmy Anderson will speak the first night followed by Rev. Jamie Moss the second and Bill Stone on the last. For more information call Paul Tecumseh at: 918-270-0231.

## OCMA ELECTION SET FOR OCT. 6

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an officer election for Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. for: chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

For more information call the OCMA office at: 405-605-2621.

## MCNDH now offering orthodontic services

**MCNDH/Media Release**

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Dental Department is currently providing "Preventive" and "Interceptive" Orthodontics. These branches of orthodontics target our younger patients and can help to reduce the severity of the dental problem and possibly lessen the likelihood of needing traditional braces later in development.

Preventive/Interceptive Orthodontics typically includes appliances that maintain or create space to allow permanent teeth to erupt, or appliances that correct facial skeletal growth.

We will soon begin offering "Comprehensive" Orthodontics (braces) for those patients who are beyond preventive or interceptive orthodontics, either due to age or severity of the case.

For more information please contact the Okemah Dental Clinic at (918) 623-3016 or 3018.

## SUCCESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment, career counseling, retention support, testing, student senate advisors, community outreach and tutoring.

“One of the things that we do, is we do outreach to high schools and any other organizations or community groups that want us to come out; to learn more about the college,” said SSC Coordinator Jake Jackson.

The mission of SSC is to assist CMN students in completing their higher education

aid.”

CMN offers four associate degrees including: Native American studies, tribal services, gaming and police science as well as certificates in gaming or Mvskoke language.

“We try to evaluate where they’re interested in. What degree they’re going after,” Jackson said.

CMN classes began Aug. 31 and the college anticipated their largest enrollment to date.

“One of the things that we do is we do outreach to high schools and any other organizations or community groups that want us to come out; to learn more about the college.”

— SSC Coordinator  
Jake Jackson

goals by enhancing academic skills through services, programs and culture.

Once a student has chosen CMN as their higher education institution, one of the first places they will visit on the campus in Okmulgee is SSC.

“We do enrollment. We enroll all the freshman, all the new students that come to the college,” Jackson said.

By incorporating Muscogee values, the center offers guidance and support in all areas of college life.

“We really just kind of hand carry the students all the way through the process of enrollment,” Jackson said. “We help them do everything from their testing, their placement, try to help them with their financial

“I think that part of that would be the student center that opened because it has a lot of amenities,” said SSC Counselor Elsa Lowe.

Along with classrooms, offices and a science lab, the CMN student center contains a café, library, fitness center and bookstore.

“I think that having a more unified area for students to hangout is an attraction,” said Lowe.

The college also offers concurrent enrollment to high school students.

For more information about CMN, call: 918-549-2800 or go online to: [www.mvsktc.org](http://www.mvsktc.org).

The Student Success Center can be reached at: 918-549-2847.

# MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION WIC PROGRAM

## HEALTHY FOODS BUILD HAPPY FAMILIES

Locations			
Glenpool	Okmulgee	Sapulpa	Stroud
Eufaula	Broken Arrow	Seminole	Tulsa
Okemah	Coweta	Shawnee	Wetumka

For an appointment please call  
**918-549-2790 or 1-800-648-2302**  
You do not have to be Native American  
to apply for our program.

Standards for participation are the same for everyone regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin or handicap.



# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

#MCNVOTE2015 — Primary: Sept. 19 / General Nov. 2

## MCN principal chief candidates

### James Floyd Principal Chief

**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Koweta  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Tvlahasse/Wvkokaye  
**Education/Experience:** Master’s degree, post-masters certifications, managed \$2 billion budget, 9500 employees — Integrity - Top Secret Security Clearance —Teamwork - established IHS/VA sharing agreements — Innovation - Created VA/ tribal reimbursement and telehealth programs



**Platform:** While establishing successful programs for tribes nationally, my heart remained here, hoping to return to serve our tribe. I have acquired unique skills to better utilize current investments and improve efficiency of service delivery, with full financial and personnel accountability, through 35 years senior executive expertise with Veterans Health, IHS and MCN. Not accepting donations - just your vote. MVTO.

**Contact information:** 918-671-7008, Floyd2015.com

### Adam Jones III Principal Chief

**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Koweta  
**Church:** Little Coweta Indian Baptist  
**Education/Experience:** Associate degree in business, owner Jones Construction and current McIntosh District Council representative. Eight years National Council



**Platform:** I am 44, married 14 years to my wife, Amanda. We have five children and raise them in Stidham. This has given me insight to make needed changes. Areas include healthcare, economic development and education. I seek to provide our children with a secure future and become self-reliant. I will work hard for you, because all our children depend on it. You can’t have change by adding more of the same. MVTO!

### David Nichols Principal Chief

**Clan:** Wotko (Racoon)  
**Tribal Town:** Tukupvtce  
**Church:** Salt Creek United Indian Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** High school/20 years National Council representative



**Platform:** My platform is clear. I will represent our Nation in a manner that brings pride upon us all. I will focus resources on the health, education, housing and the overall welfare of each citizen. I will bring financial accountability to the business practices of our Nation and ensure the business development will engage in benefits of our Nation’s citizens. To each action I take as principal chief, I will ask myself ‘would the elders and the veterans be proud of this action?’ MVTO.

### MNN candidate profile disclaimer

All candidate profiles are placed in alphabetical order by last name as written by the candidates and do not necessarily reflect the views of the 'Muscogee Nation News.' The profiles were loosely edited for spelling, grammar, length and Associated Press style. **The following release ran on either pages one or two of the June 15, July 1 and July 15 editions of the 'Muscogee Nation News'** as well as other media outlets to inform all candidates of the rules before the filing period. These rules were strictly adhered to with no exceptions: 'MNN staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their **100 total word limit** bios. **No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates' campaign material. Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.'**  
Those with questions or concerns may contact MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697 or [scosper@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:scosper@mcn-nsn.gov) or Mvskoke Media Director Christina Good Voice at: 918-732-7630 or [cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov).

### George Tiger Principal Chief

**Clan:** HOTVLE (Wind)  
**Tribal Town:** O’CE VPOFV (Hickory Ground)  
**Church:** Yardeka Indian Baptist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** O’CE VPOFV (Hickory Ground)  
**Education/Experience:** Morris HS, Haskell Indian Junior College, NSU, Honorary Doctorate – Bacone, Multi-term National Council member, current principal chief, first language and fluent Mvskoke speaker

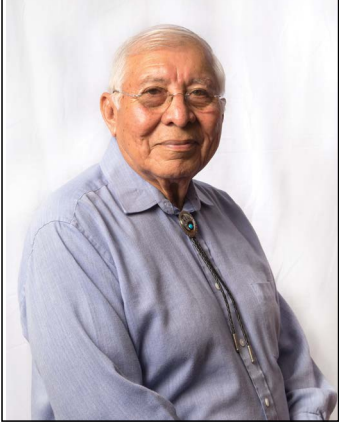


**Platform:** Reflects the traditions, culture and language needs of our most valuable and precious resource – our tribal citizens. Increase the wealth of our Nation by expanding opportunities for our citizens, keeping healthcare, education and housing as top priorities and promoting positive economic progress. MVSOKKE ETVLWV’VLKE HESAKETV-MESE OHMERRVS! (May God continue to bless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation!)

### Thomas Yahola Principal Chief

**Platform:** The responsibility of a principal chief is to exhibit integrity, transparency and accountability in caring for his people.

Today that is maintaining and improving health, education, and a higher standard of living for his people. Being a chief, he must set the example for others to follow. With your vote, this is my pledge to you.



The above listed characteristics have been my lifetime foundation. They were formed by my traditional upbringing, discipline gained in military service and knowledge gained through education and work experiences. I sincerely request your vote for principal chief, MVTO.

## MCN National Council Seat A candidates

### Shirlene M. Ade Tukvpvtce District

**Clan:** Katcvlke  
**Tribal Town:** Cheyaha  
**Church:** Many Springs Baptist  
**Education/Experience:** Employed 25 years federal government. I worked for IHS, Tinker AFB, Department of the Army (McAlester Army Ammunitions Plant) retired in 2005, two years early to work and serve Creek citizens more effectively. Mother: Elizabeth Narcomey, Holdenville. Father: Frank Lewis, Eufaula.

**Platform:** We have a challenge to face our future addressing the needs of our Creek Citizens in a modern setting, through innovative and technological means, but it must remain essentially Muskoke Etlwv. To accomplish this, our government must remain IN an OF our culture and IN and OF our people.

### Samuel Scott Alexander Tulsa District

**Clan:** Eco  
**Tribal Town:** Thlopthlocco  
**Church:** Member of Montesoma Indian Baptist  
**Education/Experience:** Lives in Broken Arrow. A graduate of Northeastern State College, he manages his CPA practice located in Wagoner. First confirmed tax commissioner (tribal defendant) during tobacco litigation with Oklahoma, Gaming Operations Authority Board chair when bingo halls converted into casinos, National Council representative for eight years, speaker in 2012-2013, three daughters, two granddaughters, senior athlete, running and basketball.



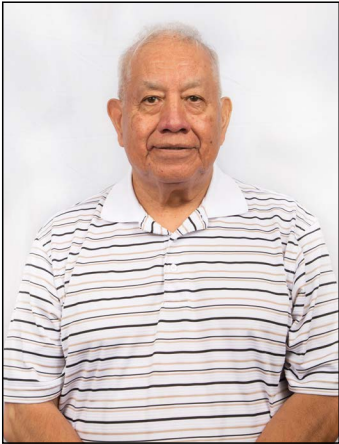
**Platform:** His candidacy for National Council representative offers unmatched financial experience, vast tribal background and candor to the concerned voter.



# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

## Wilson Bear McIntosh District

**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Eufaula-Canadian  
**Church:** Protestant  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Eufaulagee  
**Education/Experience:** B.S. Psychology/  
Sociology



**Platform:** Health, education, welfare, economic development for smaller communities that will create jobs, Social Service and Elderly Housing will play a big part as your representative.

## Del Vince Beaver Okmulgee District

**Ceremonial Ground:** New Tulsa  
**Clan:** Aktvkculke  
**Church:** New Beginnings Baptist  
**Education/Experience:** Master of Science, industrial management, Bachelor of Science, environmental management, ordained minister, 15 years employment in tribal government, 10 years serving the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I currently serve as manager of the Environmental Services Department for the tribe and I am honored to work alongside dedicated professionals who continually protect the tribe’s resources.



**Platform:** Resource management and fiscal responsibility — tribal resource protection and fiscal responsibility shall remain my steadfast goal as I continue to serve the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

## Tony Bell Creek District

**Church:** Jenks United Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** Sapulpa High School, OSU Okmulgee, 30 Years in business, I live in Kiefer, Okla., with my wife of 32 years. I have over 20 years of business experience with 10 of those as an executive director for a large retail organization.



**Platform:** Our Nation has become a large employer in our state and influential in our communities. I believe my experience in business and my reputation for honesty and integrity is crucial to all positions within the tribe for our continued growth and prosperity for all tribal members.

**Contact information:** Facebook — Tony Bell, 918-321-9511

## Alvin L. Bucktrot Tulsa District

**Clan:** Tiger  
**Tribal Town:** Hickory Ground, Sand Creek  
**Education/Experience:** Associate in Applied Science - Okmulgee Tech; U.S. Army National Guard – Water purification specialist, over 35 years journeyman plumber in private, public and government sectors



**Platform:** It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to follow the Constitution. If elected, my mission will be to progress and excel citizens to become self-sufficient and eradicating barriers that lead to poverty. Every vote I make will ask, “Will this benefit the ENTIRE MCN?” Whether you’re a Christian, traditionalist, or non-believer, I urge you to vote.

## Hazel A. (Grace) Bunner Okmulgee District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Thlopthlocco  
**Church:** Thlopthlocco Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** Psychology/  
Sociology, tribal government, research and development, real estate



**Platform:** I am a mother, grandmother and the former wife of a Vietnam veteran. At this time in our Nation’s history, we need to confront and constructively deal with the issues associated with individual and tribally owned lands, our Native veterans, gender equality in the workplace and the least promoted age group, 35-53. As a candidate, I will strive to promote legislation that will reflect the highest public good and not for one individual, business or department.

## Franklin Joseph Coachman Okfuskee District

**Clan:** Nokosulke (Bear Clan)  
**Tribal Town:** Etlwlv Rakko (Big Town)  
**Church:** Arbeka United Methodist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Green Leaf  
**Education:** Associate Degree in Science Haskell University, Studies at Seminole State College and Oklahoma Baptist University



**Platform:** As your representative, I will stay committed to making our Nation a stronger one, always looking for the future. I have been honored to serve you as your full-time Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and would like to continue serving in this position with the help of your vote. BANK ON FRANK.

## Arlene Harjo Davis Okfuskee District

**Clan:** Sweet Potato  
**Tribal Town:** Tukvpvtce  
**Church:** Wewoka United Methodist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Alabama  
**Education/Experience:** Medical field 34 years, with MCN Department of Health nine years, last five years with the Tobacco Prevention Program



**Platform:** Health, education and welfare.

## Johnnie (Chalakee) Greene Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes District

**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Kialegee  
**Church:** Springtown United Methodist  
**Education:** Coweta Schools, Haskell Institute, Tulsa Business School



**Platform:** I will continue to be an advocate for providing quality health care and housing for our elders. A high priority is also helping our youth continue their education through Higher Education programs and supporting the College of the Muscogee Nation. I also believe preserving our language and culture is imperative in all our communities. First and foremost, I will honor the Muscogee (Creek) Constitution and law.

No challengers filed to face incumbents, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Muskogee District Rep. Mose ‘Pete’ Beaver and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks, which gives them an immediate victory per the MCN Election Board.



# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

## Nelson Scott Harjo Okmulgee District

**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Alabama Quasarty  
**Church:** Tekopvtce  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Alabama  
**Education:** Associates applied science



**Platform:** Community is what we are, a group of people who live together with a shared culture and heritage. Our communities together form the Mvskoke Nation. Using demographics and statistics allow us to gain insight to work with communities better through business, healthcare and social programs. Citizens are the trunk of the tree of the Mvskoke Nation. Every community today, every community in the future, will need to be strong and self-sufficient in order for us to grow and flourish as a Nation.

## Randall Darrin Hicks Okfuskee District

**Clan:** Raccoon  
**Tribal Town:** Ufala  
**Church:** Buckeye Baptist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Okfuskee



**Education/Experience:** Mason Public School, OSU-Okmulgee, Cherokee Nation Head Start-Transportation training specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation-Community Research and Development, MCN Gaming-general manager, Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise-marketing director and general manager

**Platform:** If elected as the National Council representative of the “Great Muscogee Nation,” I plan to utilize my work experience and education to help our tribe/communities to progress forward. It is time for CHANGE! I plan to focus on our healthcare, economic development, education and culture. With your help, we can make a difference! MVTO.

## David W. Hill Creek District

**Clan:** Beaver (Echaswv)  
**Tribal Town:** New Tulsa  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Okfuskee  
**Education/Experience:** Depew H.S., Tulsa Air Park, employed in the Aviation Industry for NORDAM 26 years. Supervisor and serving on the College Program Advisory Committee (Spartan College of Aeronautics & Technology, three years.)



**Platform:** I am looking forward to serving the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation the next four years and am hopeful that we can have a united government that can work together to bring industry and economic development to our Nation so that we may prosper to meet the health, education and welfare needs of our Nation.

## Robert Hufft Tulsa District

**Clan:** Deer  
**Church:** Asbury Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** Bachelors degree from Oklahoma State University with 30 years of corporate experience, over 20 years as controller for a Tulsa company and over 12 years of tribal government experience. I have served as ex-officio to the Gaming Authority Board and served as second speaker to the National Council as well as served on various committees.



**Platform:** I believe it’s time for the Nation to re-evaluate our resources and assets to provide a plan to our citizens on how to utilize those assets to meet the needs of the citizens and prepare for our future.

## Timothy A. Jackson, Jr. Wagoner District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Weogufkee  
**Church:** First Baptist of Coweta  
**Education/Experience:** Bachelor of Science in engineering technology from Oklahoma State University; Construction management – project engineer and small business owner – Narcomey Designs, certified associate constructor of the American Institute, OSU Construction Management Advisory Board member, Associated General Contractor member, Steering Committee member of the Construction Leadership Council



**Platform:** My purpose is to serve our people, give the government back to our people and gather input from the people for our Nation’s future. I will inform our people with complete transparency.

**Contact information:** 918-344-1949, narcomeydesigns@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/ElectTJackson

## David Jimboy Tukvpvtce District

**Tribal Town:** Tulmochussee (inactive)  
**Church:** Methodist  
**Education/Experience:** Okemah High School, Military 1973-1975, USMC. 3rd Marine Divison 1st Amtrac Bn., Evacuation Operation-Vietnam; National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Honorable Discharge. Chickasaw Nation Health System healthcare security officer 16 years. Served Holdenville Indian Community as vice-chairperson five years and now chairperson.



**Platform:** I believe as a member of my community, we need to work as a team. Birthplace - Sapulpa; Father -William (Bill) Jimboy, Mother-Helen (Harjo) Jimboy; Home - Holdenville. Married to Mrs. Jensie Lee (Powell) Jimboy 35 Years. Father five children, grandfather 14 children, two great-grandchildren.

## Rodney Josie Tulsa District

**Clan:** Deer  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Weogvfke/Muddy Waters  
**Education/Experience:** A.S. business administration, 13 years experience NAHASDA, HUD, ONAP and other housing programs, 10 years experience as environmental professional, eight years experience historic/cultural preservation, 15 years experience construction budgeting/contracts.



**Platform:** I believe Muscogee (Creek) Nation should be seeking ways to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. If given the opportunity, I will use my working experience, as well as a strong desire to implement this belief. Other issues of interest are: well-being for the elderly, education, cultural preservation, youth services and improved emergency assistance.

## Edwin Marshall Tukvpvtce District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Tukvpvtce  
**Church:** Alabama Quassarte Indian Baptist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Tukvpvtce (inactive)  
**Education/Experience:** Bachelor of social work, ECU. Experience spanning four administrations - Election Board chair, National Council representative, division director, program manager, Constitution Convention vice-chair and chief of staff.



**Platform:** Citizens indicate a desire to move forward as MCN has the potential for. Political contention and lack of citizen inclusion (along with selective distribution of resources) has caused the majority to become indifferent and disinterested as evidenced by voter apathy. I won’t be defined by special interest or politicians and vow to keep the citizens’ will as my priority.



# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

## Sandra Peters Okmulgee District

**Clan:** Ancient Mother Clan Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka-Tulladega  
**Church:** Trinity Baptist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka  
**Education/Experience:** B.A. art education, Master’s study-educational psychology and theological studies, past representative, tribal administration leadership in economic development



**Platform:** We are a strong Nation, having passed through wars, separation and despair. We negotiate business on a corporate level acquiring for economic profit-driven aspirations from our resources, our intellect, utilizing tribal sovereignty. We uphold the sacred trust at our ceremonial grounds and churches, our language a testimony to our creator God. I am running on the belief in what is good, honest and right. My heart is for the growth of MCN. MVTO.

## Tom O. Pickering McIntosh District

**Clan:** Sweet Potato  
**Tribal Town:** Hichiti  
**Church:** West Eufaula Indian Missionary Baptist



**Education/Experience:** OSUIT - 17 years, National Council, chairman Tribal Affairs Committee and Community Service Committee, Health Board member, chairman of Roads Committee and Economic Development Committee, seven years community chairman, five years community board member

**Platform:** Councilmen should be a visionary and must listen to the citizens to make decisions. I believe in planning for the future needs of our people and ensure funds will be available for them. We need to protect our sovereignty, people and employees. We must invest in our young and find ways to help our elderly. MVTO!

**Contact information:** 918-618-2015

## Darrell Proctor McIntosh District

**Clan:** Deer “ECOVLKE”  
**Church:** Weogufkee Missionary Indian Baptist



**Education/Experience:** Associates Degree in computer integrated systems service, OSUIT, National Council representative from 2008-2015; instrumentation technician in manufacturing and power utilities – 29 years. Deacon, Sunday school director and church treasurer. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your McIntosh District representative. I respectfully ask for your voting support. MVTO.

Wife of 25 years, Robin; daughters, Kelsey and Amberly; son, Darrell II; mother, Minnie (Proctor) Cannon; grandparents, the late Andy and Judy (Lasley) Proctor.

## Sharon Wyatt Britt Rose McIntosh District

**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Arbeka/Nuyuka  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Arbeka

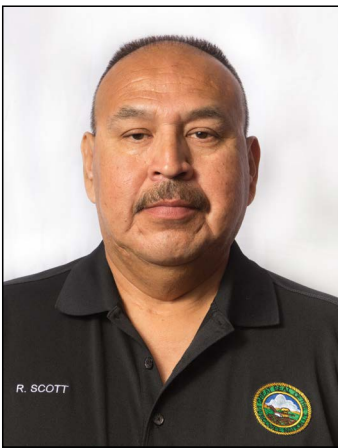


**Education/Experience:** Graduated from Graham, Weleetka 1980, graduated from Oklahoma School of Business in Tulsa, 1981, legal secretarial degree, SHIP counselor, CAC counselor for the Affordable Care Act. Muscogee (Creek) Nation 5-2006 to present contract health coordinator/patient benefits coordinator.

**Platform:** I will strive to bring accountability to our citizens and strive to ensure that all employees are supported indulgently. I will work for the citizens that are in and out of our jurisdiction to the fullest. Health/education/tribal and housing will be a priority. MVTO.

## Rufus Scott Tukvptce District

**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Alabama  
**Church:** Alabama Baptist  
**Ceremonial Ground:** Alabama



**Education/Experience:** U.S. Army Military Police Academy, Council on Law Enforcement Education Training, Wetumka Board of Education 18 years, board president 16 Years

**Platform:** I have been married to my wife Judith for 27 years. We have a daughter, Kristi and a son Brad, a grandson, Oskewvske and a granddaughter Peyton. I am Lighthorseman and also a member of the Mvskoche Nation Honor, serving as treasurer for 17 years. I would like to bring back fairness to all citizens and not a chosen few. I will be committed and listen to you the citizen.

## Pearl (Chalakee) Thomas Okmulgee District

**Clan:** Nokose  
**Tribal Town:** Cheyaha  
**Church:** Honey Creek UMC



**Education/Experience:** BS Education, Northeastern State University- retired from Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years, National Council representative for four years and served on Council committees - Community Services and Cultural Committee and Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

**Platform:** Moving the Nation forward while staying loyal to the citizens and traditions. I promise to represent the citizens to the very best of my ability so that our Nation will have a bright and prosperous future for our children and grandchildren.

## ‘Carol’ Eugenia Tiger Okfuskee District

**Clan:** Eco  
**Tribal Town:** Fishpond  
**Church:** Springfield UMC



**Education/Experience:** High school - Long Beach California, Anchor Glass Container 34 years, Creek Nation Election Board 16 years

**Platform:** My job as your Council representative would be to work for you. All community needs are important to me-church, ceremonial and community groups. I would like to see our Nation move forward and set higher standards to serve our people. From our youth to our elders, we can focus on the important issues and support one another. If elected, I would proudly serve you!

**Contact information:** Cell - 918-716-8267, Hompps.ci@gmail.com, Facebook: Vote Carol Tiger Okfuskee

## Eleanor ‘Irene’ Van Buskirk Tulsa District

**Clan:** Wind  
**Tribal Town:** Kvncvte  
**Church:** Newtown Methodist



**Education/Experience:** Bachelor Of Business Administration. Background: outpatient services (alcoholism and drug abuse); financial analyst (small business development), entrepreneurial trainer.

**Platform:** I live in Glenpool and was born to Esther (Simmers) and Elmer Van Woudenberg. Attend services for world-wide leaders. Children: Chasilee, Josiah and Elijah; six grandchildren: Aubree, Tristan, Jeffery, Kristie, Elizabeth and Zay. I will provide services with the best delivery possible with God’s blessings. MVTO!

**Contact information:** 918-946-6542, eiwhitebird@gmail.com, Facebook-Elect Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk



# 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation election candidates

## Sam ‘Gene’ Whitlow Tukvptce District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Tribal Town:** Hickory Ground  
**Church:** Thewarle Baptist, member, deacon

**Education/Experience:** Dustin HS, Haskell Institute, building construction; Oklahoma State Tech, building technology, diploma, U.S. Army, Honorable Discharge (1967) MCN Housing Authority director, tribal compliance officer. Knowledge of federal programs in finance and grant implementation. Letter carrier USPO; owned and operated construction companies. Fluent Mvskoke speaker - Retired

**Platform:** I have two daughters, three sons and live in Dustin. Tribal programs are for the people. We are entrusted to respectfully administer programs for their betterment and for continual improvement. Please support me for your representative. MVTO.



## Grover Wind Okmulgee District

**Tribal Town:** Kvsehtv  
**Clan:** Nokosvlke

**Education/Experience:** High Springs Baptist Church, Okemah and ordained minister at New Beginnings Church, Henryetta. Graduate of Okemah High School (1969); college hours from Tulsa Community College and University of Tulsa. Veteran of the U.S. Air Force-Honorable Discharge.

**Platform:** Planned progress - I am an advocate for tribal enterprise development that will broaden our economic base. Education - I strongly support the development of educational programs, especially funding for scholarships for citizens who are working on degrees or obtaining technical training. Senior citizens - Funding for meals, transportation and activities for seniors in need. Employee Development - Provide opportunities to upgrade skills.



## Dean Williams Okmulgee District

**Clan:** Bird  
**Church:** Baptist

**Education/Experience:** Henryetta High School, OSU Associate Degree, construction technology. Worked 22 years within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, seven years as GSA/Facilities manager providing assistance to the departments and communities of MCN.

**Platform:** Help build a stronger Nation. My goal is to ensure that all appropriations legislation is for the benefit of the citizens and the Nation. I would like to implement more funding for education, elders and the preservation of our culture. All Mvskoke people deserve a tribal government they can be proud of.



## Lena Wind Okfuskee District


**Clan:** Bear  
**Tribal Town:** Alabama  
**Church:** New Beginnings Henryetta

**Education/Experience:** B.A.ED., NSU, Tahlequah; M.S. ED., OCU, Oklahoma City; 10 years National Council representative, 21 years tribal programs, Okemah Indian Community chair, founding member of the MCN Scholarship Foundation, member of the MCN Health Board, Member of the OIC Economic, P.S. teacher 12 years.


**Platform:** Lifelong resident of the Muscogee Nation. There is work needed to address issues with our child welfare. Codes need to be changed that will give extended protection for our children.




MUSCOGEE VETERANS  
PASS-IN-REVIEW MARCH  
TUESDAY 10 NOV 2015




14 JUN 1775




13 OCT 1775



10 NOV 1775



4 AUG 1790



18 SEP 1947

To commemorate the election of the Principal Chief and Second Chief, Muscogee veterans of all armed forces branches will exercise the long standing military tradition of Pass-In-Review to be recognized by our elected leaders of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Branch. The Pass-In-Review will be held in front of the east entrance of the National Council mound building.

• 1000

VETERANS ASSEMBLE AT VASO BUILDING

• 1030

DIVISION FORMATION REHEARSAL

• 1200

PASS-IN-REVIEW MARCH

• 1230

CHOW (AT ONEFIRE CASINO)

MUSCOGEE VETERANS PLEASE RSVP BEFORE MONDAY 9 NOV 2015  
BY CONTACTING:

Ken Davis (918) 732-7739 • Shawn Taryole (918) 732-7745 • Chelsie Dickerson (918) 732-7616  
to log in your attendance. Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest.  
(In case of rain, the event will take place at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex)

MUSCOGEE VETERANS  
APPRECIATION DAY

HOSTED BY ONEFIRE CASINO  
10 NOV 2015

• Free chow provided by OneFire Casino

• 1330-1600 - a \$1,000 cash drawing every 30 minutes until 1600




• This drawing is open only to Muscogee veterans

• Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest

• If you do not have a Muscogee Veterans vest, please provide proof of military service and Muscogee citizenship

• Muscogee veterans are encouraged to bring family members for chow

• Only Muscogee veterans may participate in cash drawing



SPONSORED BY ONEFIRE CASINO